
1010 TRAFFIC CONTROL PRODUCTS EVALUATION COMMITTEE (TCPEC)

The Arizona Transportation Research Center (ATRC) administers the Product Resource Investment Deployment and Evaluation (PRIDE) process. The main goal of the PRIDE process is to develop, organize, and implement a centralized, fair, and objective way to determine the viability of old and new products as they relate to the State highway system. If a product is determined to be acceptable and of value, then, through the PRIDE procedures, it will be listed on the Approved Products List (APL).

The APL is divided into over 26 categories and further divided into hundreds of product subcategories. Category V, Traffic Control Materials, identifies approved traffic control products.

The Traffic Control Products Evaluation Committee (TCPEC) was established via ADOT's Policy Memorandum No. 92-08. It meets quarterly to review the current status of product evaluations, discuss products, assign product evaluation projects, and vote disposition of products either requesting evaluation or evaluated. Currently the TCPEC is comprised of the following members:

- State Traffic Engineer, Chair
- ATRC Representative
- Phoenix Region Traffic Engineer
- Baja Region Traffic Engineer
- Western Region Traffic Engineer
- Northern Region Traffic Engineer
- Traffic Engineer, Traffic Operation Services
- Traffic Design Representative
- Electrical Design Representative
- Materials Group Representative
- Construction Group Representative
- Procurement Representative
- Roadway Engineering Group Representative
- Contracts & Specifications Representative
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Representative
- Arizona Chapter of American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) (2 Representatives)
- Local Government (2 Representatives)
- Traffic Engineering Group Consultant (non-voting)

TCPEC can also establish subcommittees to deal with specific issues and/or sub-disciplines. Currently, TCPEC has chartered an electrical subcommittee and an intelligent transportation system (ITS) subcommittee.

Evaluation of products through the PRIDE process often involves literature searches, polling of users, laboratory tests, field tests, and an economic study as to the value benefit of the product. The PRIDE process specifies that all such evaluations are conducted and documented via a written work plan. A work plan can take on any form, but the specific design should conform to the product or products under consideration. However, its main goal is to produce an engineering document that provides a basis on which the product is defined, tested, and evaluated. This in turn gives ADOT an objective engineering process in which to consider the use or nonuse of products.

1010.1 APPLICATION

All vendors shall contact ATRC for submittal of new products for use by ADOT. ATRC will provide the vendor with application forms and vendor proposal requirements. Specifications shall be submitted with each product and, when required, an engineering drawing. When requested by ATRC, the vendor shall submit a current certificate of analysis or test prepared by an independent testing laboratory for each product. When applicable, all testing shall be done in accordance with ADOT testing policies and procedures.

1010.2 TESTING

All products will normally require laboratory and/or field testing. Testing may be done by ADOT or by an independent testing laboratory. Each test conducted shall culminate in a report of the test results. All reports prepared by engineering consultants or independent testing laboratories shall be sealed and signed by a registered professional engineer.

1010.3 APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

All new products to be considered for use by ADOT shall be submitted to ATRC. The submittal shall include all required paperwork, including a cover letter, vendor's proposal, and other supporting data. Once the ATRC's requirements are satisfied, the product proposal will be scheduled for the next regular meeting of the appropriate committee. The ATRC will provide a written notification to the applicant as to the decision of the committee concerning the approval or disapproval of the subject product. If a product is disapproved, a copy of the test/evaluation report will be sent to the applicant. The disapproval notice will contain sufficient information to ensure the applicant can understand the reason(s) the subject product was disapproved. When a product is approved, the notice to the applicant will contain the approval date, the date the product requires recertification and the cycle recertification is required, for example, every five years or any time the product is modified.